

Department of Public Health  
and Human Services

Section:  
COVERAGE GROUPS

FAMILY MEDICAID

Subject:  
Ribicoff Child (MA-RK)

**DRAFT**

**Supersedes:** FMA 201-9, 01/01/04

**References:** 42 CFR 435.116; ARM 37.82.101, .701



**GENERAL RULE**--Medicaid eligibility may be established for any child through the month of their 19th birthday. The child cannot be living with a natural/adoptive parent or specified relative. If the child is living with a parent/specified caretaker relative, eligibility must be determined under MA-FM or PC/PS. The child's case will be medically needy. Ribicoff should only be used when the child is over income for poverty-level coverage (PC/PS). Countable resources cannot exceed \$3,000.

**NONFINANCIAL  
CRITERIA**

Applicants for Ribicoff Child coverage must meet the following non-financial criteria:



1. Age (under age 19);
2. Social Security Number (a Social Security Card is not required);
3. Residence;
4. Citizenship and/or alienage;
5. Cooperate with Program Compliance; and
6. Cooperation with TPL, including
  - a. HIPPS
  - b. Trauma questionnaires
  - c. Providing information on available insurance and
  - d. Insurance questionnaires

**EXCEPTION:**

A newborn child (no more than 30 days old) whose parent surrenders it to an emergency service provider under the **Montana Safe Haven Newborn Protection Act of 2001** may not have a birth certificate or Social Security Number. Children surrendered under this act are presumed to have been born in Montana, and therefore are considered U.S. Citizens and Montana residents.

The Department's Child and Family Services (CFS) Division will assume care, control and temporary protective custody of these newborn children. The children will be placed with prospective adoptive families as soon as possible.

CFS may apply for Medicaid on behalf of these children prior to the child having a birth certificate or SSN.

Any newborn identified as having been surrendered under this Act will have their Medicaid eligibility determined without a SSN or birth certificate, if they are not available. A TEAMS alert should be set to request these at a later date (it may take 6 months or longer to have a birth certificate and SSN issued for these children).

**► REQUIRED  
FILING UNIT  
MEMBERS**

**MEDICALLY NEEDEY MA-RK:**

The standard **Medically Needy** filing unit **must include** the:

1. Child for whom application is being made; and
2. Child's spouse, if residing in the same home.

**NOTE:** If a required filing unit member does not meet citizenship or qualified alien status, include in the filing unit but code 'DQ'. Do not code 'OU'.

**► OPTIONAL  
HOUSEHOLD  
MEMBERS  
(Medically Needy)**

The following individuals are **not required** to, but may be included in the **Medically Needy Ribicoff** filing unit:

1. Minor siblings (whole, half or step) and
2. Minor children/stepchildren of the child for whom application is being made

**► EXCLUDED  
HOUSEHOLD  
MEMBERS  
(Medically Needy)**

An individual who lives in the same household **must be excluded** from the Ribicoff filing unit if he or she is:

1. Age nineteen (19) or older; or
2. An SSI cash recipient.

If an individual is not included in the filing unit, their income and resources are disregarded. If contributions are being made, only that which is actually contributed is countable.

**EVALUATE  
INCOME AND  
RESOURCES**

1. Compare the countable income to the medically needy standard for the household size.
2. Compare the countable resources to \$3,000. All resources of required filing unit members are counted in full. If siblings are included in the filing unit, their resources are counted in full.

**► SAMPLE  
FILING UNIT**

A household consists of Mr. and Mrs. Jones and their friend's 17-yr-old twin boys. They request Medicaid coverage. The boys may be eligible under medically needy Ribicoff if their countable income exceeds the limit for Poverty Six. Consider only the income and resources of the children to determine Ribicoff eligibility. Count the income of Mr. and Mrs. Jones only if actually contributed to the boys.

Filing unit members would include:

17-year-old twins (Part Code "IN")

Mr. and Mrs. Jones are not required in the filing unit. If included, they are coded 'OU'.

**NOTE:** Either of the twins could be coded 'OU' if they did not want coverage or had income/resources that would impact the other twin's eligibility.

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